

School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences

Master of Science Program in Human Development and Early Childhood Disorders

Objectives

The Master of Science program in Human Development and Early Childhood Disorders is designed for students with professional interests in early child development and disorders. The curriculum offers a strong foundation in the normative path of physical, cognitive, and social development with specialized training in the assessment, diagnostic and intervention skills needed to work with the developmental disorders of early childhood. Students are prepared in identification and delivery of services to young children who show developmental delays and disorders, the prevention of delays, and the promotion of optimal development. Classroom curriculum is combined with practical experience in a variety of clinical and educational settings, both on campus and in the community. Graduates of the program are ready to work as part of a multi- or transdisciplinary team as Early Intervention Specialists and Developmental Specialists with infants, young children and their families in early childhood intervention programs, medical/therapy clinics and in preschools. Graduates with one additional year of work experience typically qualify for Level 2 Infant Mental Health Endorsement by First3Years (formerly the Texas Association for Infant Mental Health).

Facilities

The principal sites for the academic activities of the Human Development and Early Childhood Disorders program are located at UT Dallas and the Callier Center for Communication Disorders on the main campus in Richardson and on the campus of the UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. Facilities include research and observational laboratories, including settings dedicated to infant and child assessment. The Callier Center on both the main campus in Richardson and the medical center campus offer a number of educational and clinical programs serving young children, including the Preschool Language Development Program held at Callier-Richardson. Various community programs and settings throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex provide essential educational and clinical environments for training in Human Development and Early Childhood Disorders. Practicum and Internship placements both on campus and in the community provide supervised on-site and community based fieldwork experiences with young children with special needs and their families.

NOTE> Please be advised, the admissions section below feeds in from a separate page. Any changes made to the admissions section below will not be retained. Please contact

catalog@utdallas.edu with any questions.

Admission Requirements

The University's general admission requirements are discussed on the [Graduate Admission](#) page.

The Human Development and Early Childhood Disorders program is designed for students with backgrounds in psychology, special education, early childhood education, social work, and communication disorders. Students from other disciplines are also encouraged to apply. Those from other fields are generally not required to take leveling courses.

Admission to the Human Development and Early Childhood Disorders program is based on a review of the applicant's GPA (grade point average), GRE scores, letters of recommendation, and narrative description of interests, relevant experiences, and career goals.

Degree Requirements

The University's general degree requirements are discussed on the [Graduate Policies and Procedures](#) page.

The plan of study includes a set of required foundational courses, elective course options, and supervised practical experience in applied settings designed to prepare students to work with children and their families.

Participation in on- and off-campus practicum and internship requires that students meet the health and safety requirements of the program or facility. This typically includes a criminal background check, health and drug testing, and specific immunizations. Students excluded from on- or off-campus sites for any reason may be unable to complete all degree requirements.

Master of Science in Human Development and Early Childhood Disorders

39 semester credit hours

The Master of Science program requires a minimum of 39 semester credit hours. Specific degree requirements follow.

Faculty

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Professors: Margaret Tresch Owen, Pamela R. Rollins, Melanie J. Spence

Associate Professor: Meredith Grant, Shayla C. Holub

Professor of Instruction: Emily Touchstone

Assistant Professor of Instruction: Jana Husley

UT Dallas Affiliated Faculty: Mandy J. Maguire, Candice M. Mills, Jackie Nelson, Noah J. Sasson, Meghan Swanson, Andrea Warner-Czyz

Required Major Core Courses: 21 semester credit hours

[HDCD 6312](#) Atypical Development

[HDCD 6315](#) Assessment Theory

[HDCD 6316](#) Developmental Assessment

[HDCD 6319](#) The Developing Child: Infants and Toddlers

[HDCD 6320](#) The Developing Child: Toddler and Preschool Years (Two to Five Years)

[HDCD 6370](#) Intervention with Young Children

[HDCD 6390](#) Infant Mental Health

Practicum: 3 semester credit hours

[HDCD 6V20](#) Practicum/Internship in Early Childhood Disorders

Internship: 6 semester credit hours

[HDCD 6V20](#) Practicum/Internship in Early Childhood Disorders

Electives: 9 semester credit hours

[COMD 6307](#) Language Acquisition

[COMD 7V62](#) Seminar in Autism

[HCS 6331](#) Cognitive Development

[HCS 6350](#) Social Development

[HDCD 7382](#) Health Psychology

[HDCD 5350](#) Introduction to Child Life

[HDCD 6310](#) Working with Parents and Caregivers

[HDCD 6330](#) Families and Culture

[HDCD 6335](#) Intervention Paradigms

[HDCD 6351](#) Play Matters

[HDCD 6355](#) Family Outreach and Assessment

[HDCD 6360](#) Behavior Management

[HDCD 6365](#) ([COMD 7336](#)) Social Communication in Early Childhood Disorders

[HDCD 6385](#) Child Psychopathology

[HDCD 6395](#) Medical and Biobehavioral Factors in Early Childhood Disorders

[HDCD 6V81](#) Special Topics in Human Development and Early Childhood Disorders

[HDCD 7V80](#) Independent Research

[HDCD 7V98](#) Independent Study

Updated: 2022-02-12 14:44:12 v7.044056